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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

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SUBJECT Transfer of the Maritime Hydrographic Service
to Stralsund

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The Seehydrographischer Dienst (Maritime Hydrographic Service) (SHD) in Berlin received ordered to transfer its entire office to Stralsund not later than 15 June 1953. The office was scheduled to be quartered on Daenholm Island near Stralsund in the former barracks installations.¹ In early June 1953, the SHD in Berlin had an office staff of about 200 persons including 15 persons who wore sea police uniform. A large percentage of the SHD personnel in Berlin refused to move to Stralsund, because of the housing situation which was rather bad as a result of war damage and requirements by Volkswerft Stralsund (Stralsund Shipyard). About 80 SHD employees in Berlin and a large percentage of the other 120 employees gave notice. Being specialists, who could not be replaced immediately, they were told that they had to continue in Stralsund for three months until new personnel was initiated. They were warned that, in the event of non-compliance, they would obtain no employment with other offices or firms in East Germany. Dr Fruns, one-time head of the SHD, believed that SHD work would be set back about two years as a result of the loss of specialists. Dr Fruns planned to continue with the SHD until the fall of 1954.

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1. Comment. The transfer to Stralsund of the SHD in Berlin, which was previously reported, is confirmed. This transfer of the SHD was the result of the transfer to Stralsund of the Sea Police Main Administration in Berlin which was scheduled for mid-June 1953. Unconfirmed information indicated that the Sea Police Main Administration was scheduled to move to the sea police school in Stralsund-Parow, which was to move to the Schwedenschanze barracks installation in Stralsund while the sea police officers' school was to move from the Schwedenschanze to Daenholm Island. The most important sea police operations staffs and training centers, except for the ship crew center in Kuehlungstorn and the mineweeping and coast protection division in Peenemuende would then be concentrated in or near Stralsund. It cannot be determined for what reasons the Sea Police Main Administration transferred from Berlin to the coast.

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